



*Blue Heron Farm  
Charlemont, Courtesy of  
the Coli Family*



*Apples at  
Shelburne Farm*

*Roadside farm stand*



*Westport Rivers  
Vineyards*

*Maple Syrup*



*Agriculture is an important part of the character and economy of the Bay State. There are over 6,100 farms in the state with a total of 570,000 acres in production. The farmland value at \$5,597 an acre is the 4<sup>th</sup> highest in the nation. Agri-Tourism allows farmers an opportunity to diversify their operations and attain economic growth. Over 150 farms offer visitors activities such as hiking, cross country skiing, cut-your-own Christmas trees, harvest festivals, bed and breakfast accommodations, farm tours, petting zoos and more.*

*Blue Heron Farm in Charlemont is a perfect example of this enterprise. On this 140 acre organic farm, continuously farmed since at least 1797, the Coli family maintains a large herd of dairy goats for breeding stock and milk, harvests a delicious crop of highbush blueberries, breeds gentle Norwegian Fjord horses, and produces an abundant supply of pure maple syrup.*

*Year round, the public may enjoy a farm holiday in this serene setting while staying in the sugarhouse, a log cabin surrounded by pastures, or a secluded camp site at the edge of a lush hayfield.*

# General Fund

The General Fund is the Commonwealth's primary Governmental Fund. All governmental activities not specifically directed to another fund are accounted for in the General Fund. As a result, most budgeted operating expenditures of the Executive Secretariats, the Legislature, Constitutional Offices, Judicial System and Independent Commissions are paid from the General Fund. It similarly receives a significant portion of sales, individual income and corporate taxes, and the full amount of most other governmental taxes.

Revenues and expenditures associated with federal reimbursement-based programs are primarily accounted for in the General Fund. These programs have various reimbursement formulas. The Commonwealth provides grants and contract assistance to several of the authorities it reports as component units. Most of these grant and contract assistance activities are recorded in the General Fund. The fund also includes financial activities related to stabilization and tax reduction.



*Haymarket, Boston's North End*

*The North End, Boston's oldest neighborhood retains its 1630's web of narrow streets and— despite ensuing landfill— proximity to harborside wharves where European immigrants arrived in ever-increasing numbers up to the early 20th century. The North End, in fact, brings to mind the New World phenomenon of an ethnic melting pot. Covering one square mile and always densely populated, it has been home to successive influxes of English, Polish, Russian, Jewish, Portuguese, Irish and ultimately Italian families. Italian-Americans have been dominant since the 1870's, as evidenced by a Mediterranean ambience of espresso cafes and trattorias, religious festivals and boisterous street life including the famous Haymarket.*

*Text courtesy of the North End website*